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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

60553
August 28, 1956

RECORD CROP OF TURKEYS THIS YEAR

Farmers are raising about 76 million turkeys this year--16 percent more than in 1955, according to a preliminary estimate of the Crop Reporting Board. About 29 percent more heavy breed turkeys are being raised this year than last, while light breeds show a decrease of 19 percent. Light breeds are 18 percent of the total raised this year, compared with 26 percent last year.

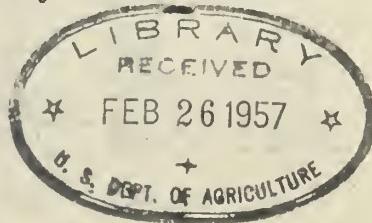
Heavy breed increases from last year were 48 percent in the South Central, 39 percent in the West North Central, 35 percent in the South Atlantic, 25 percent in the East North Central and 20 percent in the West. There was no change in the North Atlantic States. Heavy whites raised this year will be about a fourth of all heavies raised. By geographic areas, heavy whites as a percent of all heavies raised are 60 percent in the North Atlantic, 36 percent in the East North Central, 30 percent in the West North Central, 28 percent in the South Atlantic, 25 percent in the South Central and 4 percent in the West.

Light breed turkeys show decreases in all parts of the country. Decreases from last year are 5 percent in the South Central, 7 percent in the South Atlantic, 16 percent in the West, 27 percent in the East North Central, 34 percent in the West North Central, and 42 percent in the North Atlantic States.

Last January, farmers expressed their intentions to raise about 14 percent more heavy breed turkeys this year, with increases varying from 7 percent in the North Atlantic to 38 percent in the South Atlantic States. They intended to raise 16 percent fewer light breeds, with decreases varying from 11 percent in the West North Central to 25 percent in the East North Central States. However, the South Central States intended to raise 2 percent more light turkeys this year. The 1955 turkey crop was 3 percent smaller than in 1954. Prices received by producers for turkeys during the last half of 1955 averaged 7 percent higher than a year earlier and poultry feed prices averaged 10 percent lower.

During the first half of 1956, which covers the main hatching season, prices received for turkeys averaged 6 percent higher than a year earlier and poultry feed prices averaged 7 percent lower. Turkey producers have more than doubled their intended increase of heavy breed turkeys, while they decreased their light breed turkeys slightly more than they had intended.

In this report, light breed turkeys include Beltsville Small White, Jersey Buff, Royal Palm and Wild turkeys. Heavy breed turkeys include all other breeds.



Turkeys Raised on Farms 1956, with Comparisons

Number raised

State and Division:	Heavy breeds			Light breeds			Total all breeds		
	1955	1956	1956 % of 1955	1955	1956	1956 % of 1955	1955	1956	1956 % of 1955
	Thou.	Thou.	Percent	Thou.	Thou.	Percent	Thou.	Thou.	Percent
Maine	156	148	95	103	38	37	259	186	72
N. H.	136	118	87	6	3	50	142	121	85
Vt.	111	108	97	4	1	25	115	109	95
Mass.	594	551	93	48	20	42	642	571	89
R. I.	48	13	90	4	4	100	52	47	90
Conn.	251	268	107	20	11	55	271	279	103
N. Y.	916	953	104	58	40	69	974	993	102
N. J.	203	222	109	131	52	40	334	274	82
Pa.	1,645	1,645	100	652	422	65	2,297	2,067	90
N. Atl.	4,060	4,056	100	1,026	591	58	5,086	4,647	91
Ohio	2,062	2,514	122	896	681	76	2,958	3,195	108
Ind.	1,324	1,519	115	632	398	63	1,956	1,917	98
Ill.	829	1,061	128	67	77	115	896	1,138	127
Mich.	795	905	114	169	165	98	964	1,070	111
Wis.	1,656	2,359	142	555	361	65	2,211	2,720	123
E. N. Cent.	6,666	8,358	125	2,319	1,682	73	8,985	10,040	112
Minn.	5,391	7,950	147	2,643	1,610	61	8,034	9,560	119
Iowa	4,190	5,432	130	263	312	119	4,453	5,744	129
Mo.	1,853	2,723	147	589	370	64	2,442	3,101	127
N. Dak.	387	515	133	120	43	36	507	558	110
S. Dak.	286	419	147	43	51	119	329	470	143
Nebr.	727	809	111	89	56	63	816	865	106
Kans.	638	866	136	92	76	83	730	942	129
W. N. Cent.	13,472	18,714	139	3,839	2,526	66	17,311	21,240	123
Del.	99	159	161	820	797	97	919	956	104
Md.	224	247	110	311	111	36	535	358	67
Va.	1,910	2,540	133	3,619	3,763	104	5,529	6,303	114
W. Va.	529	786	149	1,107	1,011	92	1,636	1,800	110
N. C.	914	1,241	136	139	54	39	1,053	1,295	123
S. C.	882	1,245	111	234	38	16	1,116	1,283	115
Ga.	310	357	115	6	6	100	316	363	115
Fla.	115	132	115	50	68	136	165	200	121
S. Atl.	4,983	6,707	135	6,286	5,851	93	11,269	12,558	111
Ky.	294	339	115	68	27	40	362	366	101
Tenn.	158	189	120	17	21	124	175	210	120
Ala.	150	249	166	126	68	54	276	317	115
Miss.	123	171	139	24	5	21	147	176	120
Ark.	1,136	1,743	153	421	484	115	1,557	2,227	143
La.	66	79	120	12	3	25	78	82	105
Okla.	536	706	132	208	221	108	744	930	125
Texas	2,621	4,061	155	111	396	96	3,032	4,457	147
S. Cent.	5,084	7,537	148	1,287	1,228	95	6,371	8,765	138
Mont.	49	56	114	18	28	156	67	84	125
Idaho	98	140	143	24	23	96	122	163	134
Wyo.	9	10	111	4	4	100	13	14	108
Colo.	790	1,126	143	70	14	63	860	1,170	136
N. Mex.	47	54	115	9	4	44	56	58	104
Ariz.	94	114	121	3	2	67	97	116	120
Utah	2,033	2,322	114	739	395	53	2,772	2,717	98
Nev.	7	7	100	3	3	100	10	10	100
Wash.	738	639	87	70	18	69	808	687	85
Oreg.	1,290	1,233	96	245	195	80	1,535	1,428	93
Calif.	9,353	11,685	125	843	958	114	10,196	12,643	124
West.	14,508	17,386	120	2,028	1,704	84	16,536	19,090	115
U. S.	48,773	62,758	129	16,785	13,582	81	65,558	76,340	116

